



# Farm Labor

Southern Plains Regional Field Office · Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767 · 800-626-3142 · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and Texas Department of Agriculture

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This report contains the results from the October 2021 Farm Labor Survey collected during the last two weeks of October. Respondents were asked the number of hired workers, hours worked and wages for the July and October 2021 reference weeks. Estimates for the Southern Plains region were made possible by data provided by respondents in Oklahoma and Texas. Our thanks to all who responded to the October 2021 Farm Labor Survey.

**Southern Plains Highlights:** There were 43,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of July 11-17, 2021, down 14 percent from the July 2020 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 42,000 for the week of October 10-16, 2021, down 14 percent from the October 2020 reference week.

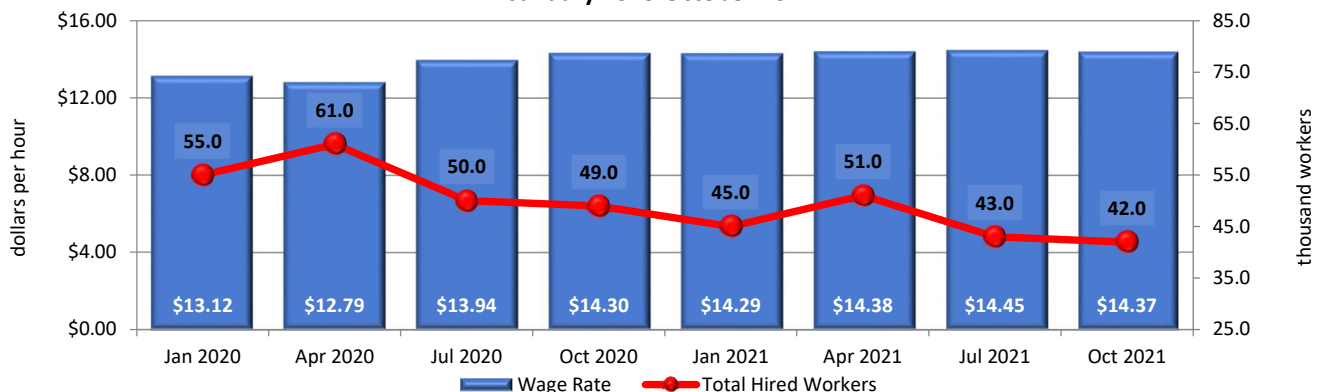
Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the July 2021 reference week averaged \$14.45 per hour, up 4 percent from a year earlier. For the October 2021 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$14.37, slightly above the October 2020 wage but down 1 percent from July 2021.

**U.S. Highlights:** There were 797,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 11-17, 2021, up 3 percent from the July 2020 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 772,000 for the reference week of October 10-16, 2021, up 2 percent from the October 2020 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$16.59 per hour during the July 2021 reference week, up 6 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from July 2020.

During the October 2021 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$16.59 per hour, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 42.0 for hired workers during the reference week, down slightly from October 2020.

Southern Plains Hired Farm Workers and Wage Rate  
January 2020-October 2021



**Hired Workers and Wage Rates, Southern Plains Region**  
**[Excludes agricultural service workers]**

Farm employment	July 12-18, 2020	October 11-17, 2020	January 10-16, 2021	April 11-17, 2021	July 11-17, 2021	October 10-16, 2021
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more .....	40	40	41	45	35	34
149 days or less .....	10	9	4	6	8	8
Total .....	50	49	45	51	43	42
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers .....	40.8	41.1	40.2	41.8	39.2	41.2
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined .....	13.55	13.80	13.70	13.75	14.07	14.01
Field .....	13.26	13.47	13.35	13.32	14.26	14.20
Livestock .....	13.84	14.08	13.95	14.07	13.86	13.82
All hired workers .....	13.94	14.30	14.29	14.38	14.45	14.37

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

**Hired Workers and Wage Rates, United States**  
**[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]**

Farm employment	July 12-18, 2020	October 11-17, 2020	January 10-16, 2021	April 11-17, 2021	July 11-17, 2021	October 10-16, 2021
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more .....	575	577	442	506	575	578
149 days or less .....	202	181	64	107	222	194
Total .....	777	758	506	613	797	772
	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)	(hours/week)
Hours worked by hired workers .....	41.4	42.1	40.2	40.9	41.0	42.0
	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)	(dollars/hour)
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined .....	14.85	15.10	15.08	15.06	15.85	15.92
Field .....	14.98	15.28	15.23	15.19	16.10	16.08
Livestock .....	14.50	14.62	14.87	14.81	15.19	15.45
All hired workers .....	15.62	15.87	16.21	15.97	16.59	16.59

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

NASS provides accurate, timely, useful and objective statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. In order to view the full national report, please visit the following website: [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/).